ICSG(I)/2/Add.2
5 June 1992

Original: ENGLISH

INTERNATIONAL COPPER STUDY GROUP
Inaugural Meeting
Geneva, 22 June 1992
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Addendum

Annex IV

COMMENTS BY THE PHILIPPINES

Comments on the draft rules of procedure of the International Copper Study Group (ICSG) submitted by the Philippines

Rule 9: This rule should not be linked with any provision on contributions to the budget as this would be biased against participating members with smaller contributions. The addition of the phrase "for the current year" at the end of the sentence is proposed.

Rule 10: The election by calendar year is in order because it coincides with the Group's financial year. However, the rule should provide the date of the election, which should not be more than two months before 31 December, and the date of the assumption of office of the newly elected officials, which should be 1 January.

Rule 11: The phrase in brackets is in order. An officer elected in mid-term should serve only for the rest of the term.

Rule 12: The rule as written is acceptable without any deletions. For instance, decisions for which a vote is necessary and taken by a simple majority of members responsible for three quarters of the budget would only mean that the issue being decided upon is crucial and would have repercussions to any member.

Rule 17: Voting by correspondence is common among many international non-governmental organizations to save expenses of travel and accommodation, especially when the matters to be decided are administrative or

non-controversial. However, the number of members who can object to this mode of voting should be at least 25 per cent of the members if the rule is to have any practical value.

Rule 18: This rule is in order, but it should not allow a change in the vote of a delegation on matters previously decided at a meeting.

Rule 23: Copy of the annual budget sent to the members in advance will give them an opportunity to voice their objection to any item in the budget. Since the members of the Group are also members of the United Nations, its account should be kept in the same currency normally used by the United Nations, which is the United States dollar.

Rule 24: If the budget will be prepared in United States dollars, the members' contributions should also be in the same currency.

Rule 26: This rule is in order. Consensus should first be resorted to before a vote is taken. The two-thirds majority vote is a safeguard against a budget being "railroaded".

Rule 28: The rule should define what the account is. There should also be a provision that the statement should be circulated within 30 days after its certification.

Rule 32: The present rule should provide how the Standing Committee is to be constituted instead of leaving it to the future decision of the Group.

Rule 35: The last sentence enclosed in double parentheses is not unreasonable. The two-thirds vote guarantees against a proliferation of subcommittees or ad hoc groups whose work can be assigned to existing committees.

Rule 36: Please see our comments on rule 10.

Rule 40: The term of office of the Secretary-General should be fixed in these rules and not left to the future decision of the Group. The conditions of employment, however, can be left to the Group to negotiate with the prospective Secretary-General.

Rule 41: This rule provides some degree of control in the size of the staff within reasonable limits, considering that staff salaries would be one of the biggest expenses of the Group.

Rule 42: The phrase "relating to copper" should be retained to immunize the Secretary-General and his staff from being influenced by the members.

Rule 44: For better protection of all the members, approval of amendments of the rules should include the votes of absent members who can cast them under rule 17.